

War Reminiscences.

Private Dodson, of Wheeler's Cavalry, Follows his Recent Letter in The News with Another, in which He Relates Other Interesting Incidents of the War Between the States.

The account recently published in The News of the incarceration in the Lancaster jail during the civil war of the eighteen Confederate soldiers condemned by Gen. Kilpatrick to be shot, written by Mr. W. C. Dodson, president of the Dodson Printers Supply Company, of Atlanta, Ga., was read with so much interest that it gives us pleasure to present to our readers another letter from Mr. Dodson, in which he relates other incidents of those trying times:

Atlanta, Ga., July 6, 1906.

Mr. J. M. Riddle, Jr.

Lancaster, S. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th instant received. I am glad to know that my letter was deemed worthy of publication, and thank you for the kind words you say about it. As historian of our Camp of Wheeler's Confederate Cavalry, I come into possession of many incidents connected with the Civil War, which, together with my personal reminiscences of those stirring times, might be woven into stories of more or less interest.

At the time of our service in Georgia and the Carolinas, the war was drawing to a close, discipline had inevitably become relaxed, which gave opportunity to silt back to the rear, the skulkers, the weak and the timid, leaving those who still rode at the front as hardy and brave and reckless as a set of men as ever fought for any cause. Their blood was up, and when they met the enemy, either as individuals, squads, companies or regiments, it meant fight—sometimes with and as often without orders. Some of these encounters were desperate, and the fatalities among the cavalry was in consequence often fearful. General Wheeler's last official report shows that his command lost in killed and wounded 13 brigade and division commanders and 3200 enlisted men, out of a total of a little over 5000 a year previous.

Connected with these encounters were many incidents of a tragic nature, but in most cases I would be unable to give localities in your State, as our men were mostly from Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, etc., and were not familiar with the geography of the Carolinas, and, moving rapidly, dates are generally impossible to be supplied.

One of these was related to me by a reputable physician of Baldwin Co. Georgia, at that time a member of 3rd Arkansas Regiment of Wheeler's Cavalry. A scouting party, of which he was a member, somewhere in South Carolina, encountered at a farm house, an old white-haired man, leaning on his gate post,

CONTINUE

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crying. He proved to be a Baptist minister, and related that a squad of blue coated vandals had just left his house, after outraging his daughter in the presence of her father. Horse flesh suffered for some miles after this, but the scoundrels were overtaken, and the foul wrong done to this old man of God was fully avenged. My old friend relates that they killed them all but one, and he, being only a lad and desperately wounded, was spared, when he pleaded, "Boys, I know why you did this, but I had nothing to do with it."

Of course, I do not like to dwell upon such incidents, and I find that the participants are often reluctant to give details. We are old men now, and with age comes reflection, and no desire to boast of lives of fellow men taken in youth, even though the homicides were justifiable. But "lest we forget, lest we forget," may be it is not amiss that the younger generation learn something of what their fathers did and suffered.

But mixed along with the tragedy, comedy was often prominent, and on this feature I am fond of dwelling. As stated, when men of the different uniforms met, they fought, and sometimes ludicrous things happened, and occasionally very foolish ones done. Among these (apologizing for mentioning a personal exploit) was two companions and myself attacking General Negley's division. I thought for a long time that this was the biggest fool thing done by any body during the whole war, but later learned that Col. J. S. Prather (8th Confederate Cavalry) went me "one better," when he with about 150 men charged Osterhaus' Army Corps—rode through a regiment of skirmishers hastily thrown out, and rode back again—that is some came back, but not all, for men as reckless as these could not all live.

And connected with this charge, comes in the element of comedy I have just mentioned. As Prather's boys rode at Osterhaus' Command, they encountered a big Dutchman, driving a stolen mule, to a stolen cart, loaded with stolen plunder. The shouting and shooting caused the mule to run away, the cart struck a pine tree and upset, spilling out the contents, consisting of a little of almost everything, from feather beds to baby clothes. Dutchy fell flat of his back, and made no effort to get up, but lay like a big lager beer keg, shouting, "Mine Got, Mine Got, I surrenders, I surrenders." But the boys had no time to take prisoners, and the Dutchman's load (probably the baby clothes especially) proved his undoing for, as they rode past him, each one let him have one shot in the paunch from a revolver, until his cries dwindled into a weak refrain, "Mine Got, Mine Got, I iss kilt, I iss kilt." Faithfully,

(Private) W. C. Dodson.



Do the merchants who advertise all of the time that they will sell you goods "below cost" really mean it? Of course not. How could they and keep it up? It's not arithmetic. But you can understand, can you not, how that at this season of the year when summer business is nearly over that a legitimate store may wish to close out many lines they have bought too many of. Many merchants buy job lots and poorly made goods to spring on the people at this time of the year, but look out for these fake sales. We would rather do without business than to give our patrons poor stuff. We are here to stay. So even at prices we confess are reduced and let us out about even we have left lots of "clothes of quality" at prices that will suit your purse.

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Lancaster Mercantile Co.

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M. C. Gardner
County Supervisor.

July 3, 1906.

Do you take The News?

Notice of Application For Discharge as Guardian.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will, on the 5th of August, 1906 make his final settlement with the Judge of Probate of Lancaster county, at his office at the courthouse, as guardian of Evelyn R. Nisbet, and apply to said court for final discharge as said guardian.

This July 5, 1906.

E. W. NISBET,
Guardian of Evelyn R. Nisbet.

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